

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
STATE CAPITOL
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, January 20, 1950

Governor J. Strom Thurmond said today he had been requested to extend an invitation to South Carolina veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge to attend the dedication of the Bastogne Monument April 18 ~~to~~ Belgium.

The invitation came from General Sam Edge Dockrell (Ret.), who will command an expedition to Belgium for the unveiling, led by the Centennial Legion, composed of the historic military commands of the 13 original states.

General Dockrell said the ranks of the Centennial Legion are open to the brave survivors of Bastogne, or to any other servicemen, during the expedition to Europe, which will leave New York March 29 and return April 21. During the "friendly invasion" of Europe, the Legion will visit London to be reviewed by the King and Queen and to present relics of the American fight for Independence collected at Bunker Hill, Lexington, and other battle sites. The Legion will also visit The Netherlands, and the entire European trip has been designated as "Operation Friendly."

Governor Thurmond, himself a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge, pointed out that it was one of the greatest battles of all times, and that 76,890 Americans were killed, wounded, or reported missing at Bastogne.

During the visit to Europe, members of the Centennial Legion will wear their historic Colonial uniforms, in celebration of the 175th anniversary of the American Revolution.

South Carolina veterans interested in learning further details of the expedition may write to Major C. L. Hill, Transportation Officer, Phalanx Armory, 314 Washington Street, Hartford 6, Connecticut.

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